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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/212,203	12/15/1998	T. ALLAN HAMILTON	CLB7-B93	8736

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EXAMINER

PHAN, HANH

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2633

DATE MAILED: 11/29/2001

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

TR

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/212,203

Applicant(s)
HAMILTON

Examiner
Hanh Phan

Art Unit
2633



– The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address –

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Dec 15, 1998
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 35 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 4-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 4, 9-13, and 18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 5-8 and 14-17 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirements.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:

- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
- ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- 15) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 16) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 17) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____ 20) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1, 4, 9-13, and 18 are rejected under 35U.S.C.103(a) as being unpatentable over Jackson (U.S.Patent number 5,714,909, cited by applicant) in view of Sahota (U.S.Patent number 5,880,631).

Regarding claims 1, 9, and 11, Jackson teaches an improved infrared transceiver system comprising:

a first sensor (12)(Fig. 1) for detecting infrared signals incident thereon and converting said signals to an electrical current signal;

gain control means (first stage 14)(Fig. 1) for amplifying said current signals;

a voltage converter for converting said current signals into voltage signals (col. 3, lines 1-48).

Jackson differs from claims 1, 9, and 11 in that he does not disclose staged current amplification means in circuit between said gain control means and said voltage conversion means, said staged current amplification means comprised of at least two amplification stages, each said

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stage amplifying said current signals. However, as evidenced by Sahota, providing staged current amplification means comprised of at least two amplification stages, each said stage amplifying said current signals (Figs. 1A and 2, col. 6, lines 30-57) is well known in the art. Therefore, it would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to incorporate the staged amplification means as taught by Sahota to Jackson in order to amplify the signals

Regarding claims 4 and 13, the combination of Jackson and Sahota teaches an improved infrared transceiver system wherein said gain control means comprises a current mirror in operative connection with said staged current amplification means (Fig. 1 of Jackson and Fig. 2 of Sahota).

Regarding claims 10, 12, and 18, the combination of Jackson and Sahota teaches wherein each said stage of amplifying comprises amplifying said current signals in a transistor operating in the weak inversion range (Fig. 1 of Jackson and Fig. 2 of Sahota).

3. Claims 5-8 and 14-17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 and 4-17 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

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Gimlett (U.S. Patent number 5,010,588) teaches ultrawide bandwidth low noise optical receiver.

Lynn (U.S. Patent number 5,251,054) teaches electro-optical interface.

Keating (U.S. Patent number 4,743,856) teaches digital optical receiver circuit.

Arai et al (U.S. Patent number 6,037,823) teaches offset correction circuit.

Ohhata et al (U.S. Patent number 6,304,357) teaches optical receiver.

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hanh Phan whose telephone number is (703)306-5840.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jason Chan, can be reached on (703)305-4729. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703)872-9314.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)305-4700.

Leslie Pascal
LESLIE PASCAL
PRIMARY EXAMINER